

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 11, 2017

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Howard, Mather, Sorensen, Sauer and Bonebrake present. Chairperson Sorensen presiding.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sauer, an ordinance was approved revising the Title III – Property/Land Use and Development, Chapter II – Zoning Ordinance on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed a variance granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, December 1, 2017. Case #17-12-01 is an application filed by Steven and Pamela Tomfeld, Record Owners. This property is located in Cedar Township, Lots 1-4 & 12-18, Blk 2 & Parcels D & E, Adjacent, Cranston, 2495 Freedom Circle, Letts, Iowa, containing approximately 1.50 acres and is zoned R-2 Residential District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order to rebuild a dwelling that was destroyed by fire on top of the existing foundation, which is located on the front property line. On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed a Special Use Permit granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, December 17, 2017. Case #17-12-02 is an application filed by George David Schmidt, Record Owner, and Davina S. and Jacob V. Holladay, Applicants. This property is located in Goshen Township, part of the SE ¼ of Section 33 and the SW ¼ of Section 34, all in T78N-R3W, North and West of 160th, containing approximately 41 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Special Use Permit in order for Mr. and Mrs. Holladay to place a one family dwelling on approximately five acres. The Board of Adjustment approved this request.

Discussion was held regarding the County's ordinance regarding the prohibition of signage for home based businesses in the County. Sorensen stated the City of Muscatine is looking at their home based business ordinance and he wonders if the County should parallel what the City is doing. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated he feels the ordinance needs to be reviewed as there are businesses in the County in violation of the current ordinance. Howard stated the County needs to have its own standard and regulations separate from Muscatine City. The Board directed Furnas to return with recommendations for possible changes to the ordinance. Mather stated he would like to know what the inconsistencies are and what problems those pose. Bonebrake stated a permitting process before allowing signage could address a number of issues. Furnas will return with more information regarding the County's home based business ordinance.

A quarterly update on the Eastern Iowa MH/DD Region was provided by Community Services Director Kathy Anderson-Noel and Regional CEO Lori Elam. Anderson-Noel provided the Board with the Eastern Iowa MH/DD Region's FY2017 Annual Report which was reviewed by Elam.

Community Services Director Kathie Anderson-Noel provided a brief overview of Community Services stating in November 3 out of 8 commitments went to out of region hospitals but they were to either University of Iowa or St. Lukes, so they did not have to be sent across the State. Anderson-Noel stated Robert Young is in the process of hiring a position to work with the Jail and Sheriff to make sure people are receiving services. Anderson-Noel reported there were 70 calls in October to the crisis line. Anderson-Noel stated the Trust program currently has 220 cases. Anderson-Noel stated General Assistance is seeing more use of MCSA and the food pantry. In response to a question from Sorensen, Anderson-Noel stated the food pantry is looking for another location, but the location needs to be in close proximity because food sacks that they have in their office for when the food pantry is closed are packed by the food pantry.

Eastern Iowa MH/DD Regional CEO Lori Elam stated she has been distributing door hangers, magnets and pamphlets to promote their crisis line. Strategic Behavioral Health has been approved to construct a facility in Bettendorf for a 72 bed facility. Elam stated starting January 1, 2018, if the facilities in the region are full, they will be able to take a patient across the river to Rock Island for a bed. Elam discussed future funding of the region stating for FY19, if Cedar, Jackson, Muscatine and Clinton levy zero dollars and Scott County stays at \$19.30, then they will use 8 million dollars of the region's fund balance. Elam stated all five counties would have to levy the \$30.78 maximum in FY20 and the region will still use 1.5 million dollars of the fund balance. Elam stated if all of the counties would levy at \$19.30 in FY19, then they would use 6 million of the fund balance; in FY20, if all of the counties levy \$24.00, then they would use 3 million dollars of the fund balance; and in FY21 all of the counties would have to go up to the \$30.78 maximum levy allowed. Sorensen stated Muscatine County taxpayers funded Scott County for 3 years. Mather stated Muscatine is looking at levying under \$19.30 to recapture dollars paid in that did not go to Muscatine County residents. Sorensen stated the legislature should remove the 3-year time limit for reducing fund balance because making the region spend down its fund balance too quickly will cause wasteful spending within the region.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the December 4, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

The Board received a letter from the Iowa Department of Corrections regarding the October 24th Jail inspection.

Bonebrake reported a call from a resident regarding the Hoover Nature Trail north of Nichols. West Liberty City Administrator Lawrence McNaul stated the trail was turned over to the cities and some farmers. Conservation Director Curt Weiss stated there were a lot of missing sections so the County did not accept any portion of the trail that is in Muscatine County. Weiss stated Iowa National Heritage owns the portions in Muscatine County not owned by West Liberty.

Sauer received an email regarding determination of the width of the right-of-way on 110th Street between Durant and Wilton for a bike trail.

Sauer reported a call from a resident reporting GPS is directing vehicular traffic for the Louisa Power Plant down his dead end road ever since the signage on his road was changed from dead end to no outlet.

Mather reported a contact regarding the home business signage issue.

Mather reported several contacts with a positive response to the Board's support for the study of potential levee flooding concerns .

Committee Reports:

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging meeting December 5th.

Mather attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting December 8th.

Mather attended a Muscatine Health Association meeting December 6th.

Bonebrake attended a Muscatine County Safety Committee meeting December 6th.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, Brian Wright was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission for a term ending January 1, 2020. Ayes: Howard, Mather, Sorensen and Sauer. Nays: Bonebrake. Bonebrake stated he voted nay because he would like to see the vacancy advertised.

Discussion was held regarding options for CAT grant match funding. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated a few years ago the Board authorized issuance of \$500,000 in bonds for cabins with repayment through Conservation revenue, but since then they have received a CAT grant so the situation has changed. Seright stated it would take all of Conservation's revenue to make a bond payment and now Conservation has been given the old care facility area that needs upgrades. Seright stated she does not believe the Board needs to borrow the money to provide the match because there are funds available in the building maintenance fund which if used will probably be able to be replaced at the end of the fiscal year. Seright suggested moving \$500,000 from the building maintenance fund to provide the match for the CAT grant for the Conservation cabins. Board consensus was to proceed with formal action to move the funds at next week's meeting.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, the Board accepted the November 2017 payroll claims.

The Board recessed at 10:45 A.M. and reconvened at 10:51 A.M.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board went into closed session at 10:51 A.M. pursuant to Chapter 21.5.1(j), Code of Iowa, to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board returned to open session at 11:32 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors